

# **BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY**

## **GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

**P6231**

For graduation from Ridgefield High School, any student must earn at least twenty-one (21) units of credits, with a minimum of seventeen (17) credits required as shown:

English	4 years	4 credits
Mathematics	3 years	3 credits
Science	3 years	3 credits
Social Studies	3.5 years	3.5 credits
World Language	1 year	1 credit
Physical Education	4 years	1 credit (1/4 credit per year)
Health	1 year	0.5 credit
Arts/Voc. Education	1 year	1 credit

A credit is defined as one subject studied the equivalent of five periods a week for a full year at grades 9-12. These credits must be earned after promotion from grade 8. In social studies, one credit must be earned in United States History or American Studies and a one-half credit politics course is required. For students new to Ridgefield High School who enter after grade 9, the Health requirement may be waived by the Superintendent upon the recommendation of the high school principal. In order to assure that all students use the school day to the best advantage, each student must carry a minimum of five (5) units of credit plus physical education during each semester of the academic year, and are encourage to go beyond this minimal requirement, if possible.

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A student must also demonstrate proficiency on the following four areas of the Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) either by taking that State test as a Sophomore and/or Junior or by completing CAPT-Equivalent performance tasks embedded in those Junior and Senior courses for which the CAPT-Equivalent tasks are relevant.

**The four areas of the CAPT are:**

1. Reading (Response to Literature Task, Reading In The Content Areas)
2. Writing (Interdisciplinary Tasks, Editing)
3. Math
4. Science (Includes content and process components)

**The six CAPT-Equivalent Tasks are:**

1. Response to literature through writing
2. Editing
3. Interdisciplinary: reading non-fiction and taking a position through writing.
4. Multi-step math problem-solving including written explanation
5. Using science concepts and responding through writing
6. Using a scientific process and responding through writing

“Proficient” is defined as reaching the Connecticut State Department of Education goals for each of these five CAPT performances or performing at the level of “At Goal” on the six CAPT-Equivalent tasks as defined by the rubrics and benchmarks of the Ridgefield Public Schools.

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In addition to demonstrating proficiency on the four CAPT areas or six CAPT-equivalent tasks, a student must also demonstrate proficiency in the following performances:

- Understanding Ridgefield Themes and Essential Questions
- Understanding the Visual and Performing Arts and other Humanities and their connections to other disciplines.
- Understanding the Sciences and their connections to other disciplines.
- Understanding Wellness and Fitness
- Reading Comprehension as a Learning Strategy
- Full use of the Writing Process including Feedback and Revision
- Research
- Use of Technology as a Tool for Learning
- Applied Numeracy
- Math Problem-Solving
- Oral Presentation
- Self-Assessment and Goal Setting to Improve Performance

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Assured experience performance tasks incorporating these required performances will be embedded in high school courses in grades nine through twelve.

Developmentally appropriate versions of the CAPT-Equivalent tasks and assured experiences will also be incorporated into the curricula of courses from Kindergarten through grade eight.

Proficiency will be defined by rubrics and benchmarks selected or created by the administration and staff of the Ridgefield Public Schools.

Grading rationales in courses from Kindergarten through grade twelve will show how the embedded assured experience performance tasks in each course are a significant component of a student's grade.

Passing a course will signify proficiency in the assured experiences in that course.

All students are encouraged to perform beyond the proficient level.

### **EXEMPTIONS**

Exemptions, modifications and accommodations regarding special education and 504 designations including any alternative assessments in lieu of the Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) will be made through the regular Planning and Placement Team procedures and 504 accommodation meetings

For purposes of graduation, students who enroll after the first semester of grade eleven are exempted from showing proficiency on the CAPT or CAPT-Equivalent tasks. The CAPT-Equivalent tasks and additional performances remain components of the grades in courses these students take.

### **NOTIFICATIONS**

Students and their families will be notified in writing on a yearly basis in grades nine through eleven of their status regarding graduation requirements.

Parents of students who have not met the CAPT/CAPT-Equivalent performance requirements by the end of the third marking period of their Junior year will be notified by certified mail. Opportunities to meet this requirement through junior and senior courses and summer school will be explained.

Parents of seniors who are in danger of not graduating for any reason including not completing the CAPT/CAPT-Equivalent performance requirements will be notified in writing by certified mail at the end of each marking period.

When a student achieves the prescribed level of performance on a CAPT-Equivalent task, that information will be placed on the student's transcript at the end of the marking period in which the performance occurred and the parents will be notified.

### **IMPLEMENTATION**

These graduation performance requirements will take effect for the graduating class of 2006 and thereafter.

### **APPEAL**

Appeals must be made in writing to the high school principal no later than forty-five (45) days prior to graduation. Appeals will follow the prescribed format as outlined in the administrative regulation of this policy. There is no appeal past the high school principal. Notwithstanding the right to appeal, in no manner may the superintendent disregard any state statutory requirements.

### **OPTIONS IF THE REQUIREMENTS ARE NOT MET**

- If the student has not met the CAPT/CAPT-Equivalent requirement by the end of the junior year, that student can be scheduled into courses that emphasize CAPT-Equivalent performance.
- Summer school courses that emphasize CAPT-Equivalent performance will also be available.
- The student may also return as a fifth year student.

### **Legal Reference:**

Conn. Gen. St., Sec. 10-221a and 10-223a

Substitute Senate Bill No. 1175, Public Act No. 01-166 (replaces Section 10-223a of the General Statutes)

Policy approved by the Board of Education 12/09/74

Revised 09/19/77

Revised 09/13/82

Revised 08/22/83

Revised 08/20/84

Revised 11/28/88

Revised 01/23/89

Revised 01/25/93

Revised 04/10/95

Revised 06/26/00

Revised 06/24/02